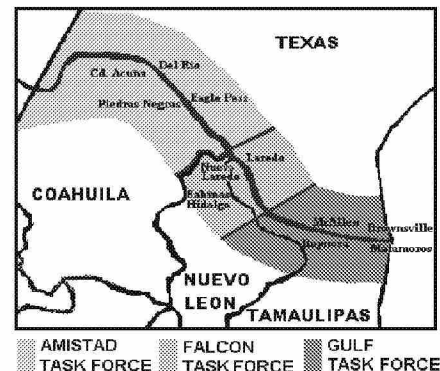


BORDER 2020

FINAL REPORT ON THE 2013-2014 Action Plan
for the TX-COAH-TAMP-NL Regional Workgroup

December 2014

(original plan published in October 2012)



The **Four-State Regional Workgroup** is the most complex of the four regional workgroups, because of its geographical expanse and the number of municipalities. The region includes parts of three states and a total of at least 29 municipios on the Mexican side, and 168 cities and towns on the U.S. side. Recognizing this, the workgroup divided itself into three geographically based Task Forces—Amistad, Falcon, and Gulf, each of which has established subject-specific committees related to its priority concerns.

During the first half of 2012, the various committees have held meetings to discuss initial priorities for the Border 2020 program, and a regional meeting of leaders was held in June to develop a consensus of priorities at the task force and regional workgroup levels.

Waste Regional Priorities

1. Address problems of improper waste disposal:
 - a. Develop comprehensive plans for solid waste management, including special wastes (such as sludge from wastewater treatment plants, scrap tires, and used electronic products) and hazardous wastes (residues from pesticides, extraction of fossil fuels, and medical facilities), looking for economic/productive uses of wastes whenever possible
 - b. Expand environmental education related to waste issues
 - c. Close and remediate open dumps wherever required by regulation
2. Assure that each project includes a component of environmental education (such as teacher training or building an environmental library), at least one indicator related to public health, and inspection and surveillance

Individual Task Force Priorities

Amistad Task Force

1. Construction of sanitary landfills
2. Attention to waste disposal in gas drilling operations
3. Harmonization of protocols related to coal mining and remediation and to petroleum materials

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4. Joint programs in communication and environmental education, and development of an environmental educators group

Falcon Task Force

1. Monitoring of drilling operations in the Eagle Ford Shale

Gulf Task Force

1. Increased recycling
2. Continuing capacity-building at the local, state, and federal levels of government
3. Technical exchanges, including best practices and lessons learned

Following there is a list of the emerging topics that were discussed during the dialogues with the State representatives, complemented with the minutes taken from the task force meetings during 2014. With the State representatives, a conversation in terms of their perspectives for the next two years was held, for programs and lines of action aligned with Border 2020, and here are the results:

Source:

Nuevo León: Norma Rangel

Coahuila: Oscar Flores

Tamaulipas: Diana Caballero

Goal 3: Promote Materials Management, Waste Management and Clean Sites





- Residential hazardous waste Management program in Acuña, Coahuila
- Scrap tire management program in Acuña, Coahuila
- Waste segregation program in 5 manantiales (Allende, Villa Unión, Zaragoza, Morelos y Nava), Coahuila
- Waste prevention and integral management municipal program, as well as composition and generation study in Rio Bravo y Reynosa, Tamaulipas
- Waste prevention and integral management municipal program, as well as composition and generation study in Camargo, Guerrero, Díaz Ordaz, Miguel Alemán y Mier, Tamaulipas
- Waste prevention and integral management municipal program, as well as composition and generation study in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- Waste prevention and integral management municipal program, as well as composition and generation study in Matamoros y Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas
- Updated diagnosis of the required infrastructure to attack the solid waste problem in Nuevo León.
- Dotar de equipamiento a todos los municipios fronterizos para el abatimiento de las llantas de desecho.
- Organic waste recyclable programs/projects
- Diagnosis to determine the installed capacity for the integral waste Management generated in Shale gas extraction
- Outreach program for market value on solid waste since its source
- Outreach municipal program and synergy with the private sector on e-waste management
- Residential Hazardous Waste Collection Center in Tamaulipas and Coahuila
- Plastic bag reduction program in ciudad Acuña, Tamaulipas

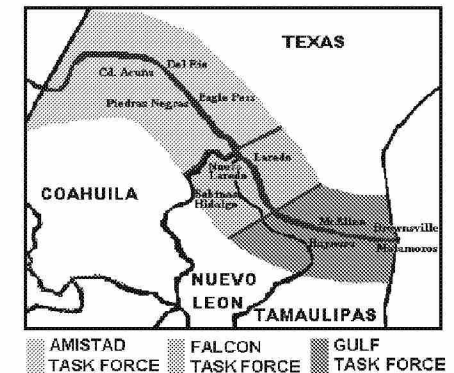
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Border 2020

2013-2014 Action Plan Grid for the Four-State Regional Workgroup

Legend:

	Activity covers at least two task force areas
	Gulf Task Force
	Falcon Task Force
	Amistad Task Force



Note: This Border 2020 Action Plan does not include infrastructure projects related directly to Border 2020 goals and objectives in air, water, and waste that have been financed in part or in full by the binational North American Development Bank. For information on those projects, see <http://www.nadbank.org/>.

Goal # 3: Promote Materials Management, Waste Management and Clean Sites

Project #	Description of Project	Collaborating Organizations	Anticipated Cost	Source(s) of funding	Points of Contact	2013-2014 Target	Progress Towards Target
Objective 1: By 2020, increase local and state-level knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.							
3.1.01	Link and promote the Mexican federal program "Green Schools" in all three Mexican states in the region and explore possible use in Texas.	SEMARNAT/Tamaulipas and state agencies in Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila	Unknown	SEMARNAT	Delfino Ramirez (SEMARNAT/Tamaulipas), Delfino.ramirez@semarnat.tamaulipas.gob.mx	Reach 150 schools in the 3 Mexican States by July 2013.	SEMARNAT implemented the program very successfully in Tamaulipas and on a very limited basis in

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					Lic. Alejandro Manriquez Ramirez (SEMARNAT/Coahuila), educacion@coahuila.semarnat.gob.mx	Hold an information exchange meeting w/Texas 2014	Coahuila. No information is available from Nuevo León. By mid-2013 in Tamaulipas, 135 schools had been registered in the program—33 in Nuevo Laredo, 50 in Reynosa, and nine in Matamoros. SEMARNAT Coahuila has certified one school in Cd. Acuña for the program.
3.1.02	Design and implement a bilingual campaign against illegal dumping in Cameron County, Texas, using billboards, newspapers, and workshops at schools.	Cameron County and the Valley Proud Environmental Council	\$10,000	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, TCEQ	Marcie Oviedo (Lower Rio Grande Development Council), moviedo@lrgvdc911.org , (956) 682-3481	Finish the project by the end of 2013.	Cameron County and the Valley Proud Environmental Council engaged in a media campaign against illegal dumping, using billboards and newspapers throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The two entities received numerous phone calls during the campaign, expressing concern about the trash that they had seen dumped throughout the valley.
3.1.03	Through purchase of equipment, enhance the recycling programs in three local jurisdictions and composting operations in two jurisdictions.	The Cities of Pharr, Mission, McAllen, and Mercedes, and the Town of Bayview	\$160,000	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, TCEQ, and individual local	Marcie Oviedo (Lower Rio Grande Development Council), moviedo@lrgvdc911.org , (956) 682-3481	Finish the five separate but related projects by the end of 2013.	All cities except one completed their projects (Bayview cancelled its activity). The cities expanded and enhanced their recycling capabilities at their recycling centers by purchasing mobile recycling trailers,

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				government			forklifts, and other equipment. Also, Pharr has introduced Curby the recycling robot in outreach activities.
3.1.04	Establish an environmental organization to develop environmental awareness and clean-up programs in Nuevo Laredo.	Keep Laredo Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, and the Municipio of Nuevo Laredo		The City of Laredo Environmental Services local partners, and Keep America Beautiful	Ing. Marco Antonio Garza Delgado y Lic. María Guadalupe Herrera Rodríguez U.T. (Programa Zona Verde, Nuevo Laredo) Lynne Nava (Keep Laredo Beautiful), lnava1@ci.laredo.tx.us	Establish an organization in 2013 in Nuevo Laredo and affiliate with Keep America by the end of 2014.	The project's objectives are expected to be fully completed in early 2015. Reciclado en Acción/Fundación Verde was established in 2013, and initiated environmental awareness events in Nuevo Laredo. The City of Laredo Environmental Services will be covering the membership fees (about \$6,000) for the organization to be affiliated with Keep America Beautiful.
3.1.07	Expand a municipal recycling program started in March 2012 in Nuevo Laredo and currently consisting of placing public bins in parks, to include all elementary schools in Nuevo Laredo.	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	Unknown	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	Osvaldo Valencia (Municipio de Nuevo Laredo—Ecology Program) valencia_osvaldo@hotmail.com	Install the bins at all elementary schools in 2013 and start relevant environmental education programs for students.	The project was completed. Bins were installed in elementary schools and environmental education conferences were resumed at the schools in February 2013.
3.1.08	Extend Tamaulipas' environmental management system program (SIMA) to private institutions, schools, and shops.	SEDUMA (State of Tamaulipas)	\$ 300,000	EPA/SEDUMA/SEMARNAT	Dr. Silvia Casas (SEDUMA), silvia.casas757@gmail.com	Reach out to 100% of the border cities.	This project was re-numbered and is now #6.0.07
3.1.09	Redesign and extend coverage of the <i>E-Conexion</i> newsletter as a strategy to share best practices.	SEDUMA (State of Tamaulipas)	\$ 30,000	SEDUMA	Dra. Silvia Casas (SEDUMA),	Extend the dissemination of <i>E-Conexion</i> to 100% of	SEDUMA expanded the electronic distribution to include 43

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					silviacasas757@gmail.com	the Tamaulipas municipalities.	municipalities, all their state offices, environmentally certified schools (SIMA-E), and private industry. To save paper and ink, SEDUMA no longer prints and distributes hard copies. Minor changes were made to the design and the use of background colors is minimized.
3.1.10	Organize a visit to Austin, TX by private and public sector Mexican waste management specialists to see a model sanitary landfill and municipal recycling operation	Red Ambiental (headquartered in Monterrey, Nuevo León) Secretariat for Sustainable Development (State of Nuevo León), and the TCEQ (State of Texas)	Unknown	Red Ambiental	Eddie Moderow (TCEQ), eddie.moderow@tceq.texas.gov	Organize the visit for October 2014.	The project was completed. The visiting group included fourteen public- and private-sector officials from six Mexican states. They spent two days in Austin in October, talking with Austin City officials and TCEQ staff, and visiting the Texas Disposal Systems landfill in Creedmore and the Balcones Resources' recycling facility in Austin.
Objective 2: By 2014, identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.							
3.2.01	Build capacity in scrap-tire management throughout the region.	Sustainable Development Secretariat (State of Nuevo León), and TCEQ (State of Texas)	\$35,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Norma Rangel Sevilla (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com	Survey border municipalities on both sides of the border, prepare a "best practices" manual, and perhaps hold a regional workshop	The project was completed in 2013. SDS surveyed more than 20 local governments on both sides of the border and then developed a manual for local

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							governments on best practices for scrap-tire management. With this manual as the focus, SDS collaborated with the TCEQ to organize a binational workshop held in March 2013. Representatives of 10 local governments plus state and federal governments, as well as private industry, attended the workshop.
3.2.02	Use organic waste generated in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León to make compost and then apply it to agricultural uses and urban gardening.	SDS (Nuevo León), SEMARNAT, and Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León	Mexican federal funds \$67,000	Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León	Norma Rangel Sevilla (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com y chel1977@live.com.mx	By the end of 2014, compost 100% of organic waste collected by the municipality from large waste generators.	This particular project has been cancelled and replaced by a related but different project in the same municipio. See project # 3.2.08 below.
3.2.03	Assess the feasibility of using scrap tires for heavy-duty road-bed construction in Brownsville, Texas.	Texas A&M University – Kingsville (TAMUK)	\$15,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Dr. Kim Jones kfkjd00@tamuk.edu	Through a demonstration project, assist communities in building capacity for scrap-tire management.	With the grant funds available, TAMUK managed a demonstration project that baled approximately 62,500 scrap tires (625 bales) and used 125 of the bales as part of the sub-base of a section of a landfill road bed in Brownsville. TAMUK is looking for an additional \$15-20K to use the remaining 500 bales and complete the extension of the road.

3.2.04	Develop a composting operation in Nuevo Laredo using sludge from the wastewater treatment plant and yard wastes, and apply the product in municipal parks as well as in homes (through sales to homeowners).	COMAPA and Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	Unknown	Municipio de Nuevo Laredo	Carlos Montiel Saeb (Comisión Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado—COMAPA) carlosmontielsaeb@hotmail.com	The program, including applications and sales, is expected to be in full operation by sometime in 2013.	Significant progress was made. By mid-2013 compost was being generated by COMAPA and applied to the germination of seeds and vegetables in the greenhouse of the municipio's Research and Environmental Education Center. The utility subsequently began distributing compost to schools for landscaping and gardening and also uses it at COMAPA facilities. COMAPA uses 5 to 10% of all the bio solids generated at the wastewater treatment plant for the compost. In 2015 the utility expects to sign an agreement with the municipio to purchase equipment that will enable generation of more compost, and then begin selling it to commercial establishments and businesses.
3.2.05	Implement a collection and management program for used electronic products in Reynosa, Tamaulipas.	Municipio of Reynosa	\$30,000	EPA border grant through the BECC	Mauricio Chalons (Municipio of Reynosa), 899 263-3798 ecologiareynosa@hotmail.com	The program will be in full operation by spring 2013.	The program was in full operation in 2013, after the first steps had been taken in August 2012. In 2013, the city collected about 27.7

							tons of e-waste and sent for recycling.
3.2.06	Design and implement a state scrap-tire management program that includes valuation.	SEDUMA (Tamaulipas)	\$ 400,000	SEDUMA/S EMARNAT /EPA	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Develop public policy and a management plan for scrap tires	The project is on hold.
3.2.07	Evaluate and take advantage of energy potential of waste in Matamoros landfills.	SEDUMA (Tamaulipas)	\$ 300,000	SEDUMA/EPA	Ing. Humberto Rene Salinas (SEDUMA), seduma@tamaulipas.gob.mx	Complete action plan	The project is on hold.
3.2.08	Study and characterize the municipal solid waste stream in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León.	SDS (Nuevo León) and Municipio of Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo León	\$25,156	BECC	Norma Rangel Sevilla (SDS, Nuevo León), normaarangel@gmail.com y chel1977@live.com.mx	Complete the study by 2015.	[This project is a replacement for project # 3.2.02, and was not initiated until mid-2014.] By the end of 2014, the study was 35% completed.

Objective 3: By 2020, improve knowledge in every level of government (federal, state, local) to characterize and remediate contaminated sites.

3.3.01	Complete the remediation of old oxidation lagoons in Piedras Negras.	Municipio de Piedras Negras and SEMA (State of Coahuila)	\$300,000	SEMA	Maria Teresa Molina, Municipio de Piedras Negras, teduada@hotmail.com	Complete the remediation of the remaining 10.3 acres by the end of 2013, after which the municipality will develop a road extension to and a green area at the site.	Prior to 2012, 19.7 acres of the 30-acre site had been remediated. Piedras Negras has not responded to inquiries about the project during 2013 and 2014.
3.3.02	Clean up an old waste disposal site near the river banks of the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass.	City of Eagle Pass	\$3.5 million	City of Eagle Pass plus an additional funding source to be determined	Hector Chavez (Eagle Pass) hchavez@eaglepasstx.us	Finish the remediation in 2013, if supplementary funding can be identified, and then develop a green area on the site.	Remediation of a portion of the site was carried out prior to 2010. The city will seek assistance through the TCEQ's Brownfields Site Assessments Program to determine whether

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							the site meets the federal definition of a brownfields site and is eligible for funding under the EPA's brownfields program.
3.3.03	Establish a sustainable management plan for scrap tires in Piedras Negras, Coahuila.	SEMA (State of Coahuila), Municipio de Piedras Negras	\$400,000	SEMA	Miguel Angel Leal (miguel.leal@sema.gob.mx)	Develop plan and place in full operation by the end of 2014	By mid-2013, SEMA determined they needed to perform a feasibility study on using coal pits as disposal sites for scrap tires. No information has been available since then.